

# THE IBIS.

EIGHTH SERIES.

No. XIII. JANUARY 1904.

I.—*On a Collection of Birds from the District of Deelfontein in Cape Colony.* By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D. &c.

## PART I.

For the very interesting collection of birds here described the British Museum is indebted to Colonel A. T. Sloggett, C.M.G., who was the Principal Medical Officer of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein during the Boer war. The actual collection was made by two taxidermists of our Museum, E. C. H. Seimund and C. H. B. Grant, who served as troopers in the Yeomanry and helped Colonel Sloggett to provide that excellent menagerie which was a source of amusement and instruction to the sick and wounded men at the Deelfontein hospital. After the conclusion of the war, many of the living animals were sent home to the Zoological Society's Gardens by Colonel Sloggett, and the fine collections of preserved mammals and birds were presented by him to the British Museum.

Seimund volunteered for the front at the beginning of the war, and fought for about eight months with Colonel Pilcher's column. Being at last struck down by enteric fever, he was sent to the Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein, where, on becoming convalescent, he turned his attention to

the collecting of natural history specimens. At that time it was impossible to get any shot for collecting purposes, so he was forced to fall back on his early experience with the catapult; his first collection, however, obtained with that weapon alone, resulted in many skins of mammals and 81 of birds (*cf.* Bull. B. O. Club, xii. p. 2). Seimund, having been invalided home, re-enlisted on his restoration to health, and was joined by his fellow-taxidermist Claude Grant. The present collection is the result of their united labours towards the end of the war. The field-notes enclosed within square brackets are contributed by our two troopers, of whose zeal in the cause of natural history we, of the British Museum, are not a little proud, especially as many of the specimens were obtained at a time when active fighting was going on and at considerable risk. The particular value of the collection lies in the fact that the birds were obtained from month to month, and that special care was taken to obtain moulting specimens. The observations on the latter, I trust, will prove to be of some interest.

Seimund describes Deelfontein as a small hamlet in the centre of Cape Colony, about thirty miles south of De Aar; it is situated in a mountainous district at an elevation of some 4700 feet. It came into prominence during the Boer war, owing to its selection as the site of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital. The hamlet comprised four houses and a pumping-station, where all the trains took in water before proceeding northwards. The vleys or valleys are very barren, with here and there a stunted tree, while a few tracts of bush-land may occasionally be found in the neighbourhood of the station, of about 500 by 50 yards in extent. The red soil is of a sandy character, with patches of stony gravel. The majority of the bushes are of a thorny nature, seldom exceeding fifteen feet in height, but the karoo bush is heathery in appearance, the plants being about eighteen inches apart, except where the soil is more fertile and the growth more dense.

In the following field-notes :

"*Krantz*" = the precipice round a mountain or kopje.

"*Kopje*" = a hill.

"*Spruit*" = a small stream, rill, or spring.

"*Swit*" or "*donga*" = a dry watercourse carved out by the rain-flow from the mountains.

"*Dam*" = an artificial pond.

The sequence followed is that of Sharpe's 'Hand-list.'

1. *FRANCOLINUS AFRICANUS*.

*Francolinus afer* (Lath., nec Müll.) ; Sharpe, ed. Layard's B. S. Afr. p. 595 (1884).

*Francolinus africanus* Steph. ; Grant, Cat. B. xxii. p. 152 (1893) ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 24 (1899).

*a, b, c.* ♂ ; *d.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 18-27, 1902.

*e, f, g.* ♂ ad. „ March 2, 1902.

*h, i.* ♀ ad. „ March 24-27, 1902.

*k.* ♂ ad. „ Aug. 12, 1902.

*l, m.* ♂ ♀ ad. „ Sept. 17, 23, 1902.

*n, o, p.* ♂ juv. „ Nov. 19, 1902.

The eggs measure : axis 1.55, diam 1.1 inch.

From the series now sent it appears that young birds can be distinguished by their white throats and paler lower mandibles. The older the bird, the more spotted it is beneath, and the throat is always more closely barred by reason of the dusky margins of the feathers, those of the lower throat being especially scale-like. The pretty grey edging to the feathers of the fore-neck seems to become abraded during the breeding-season, and the orange and chestnut markings on the fore-neck and chest are very apparent. In young birds these colours are more subdued and the black cross-barring is continued to the lower throat, coupled with very distinct white shaft-streaks. The plumage of the crown is blackish in young birds, with margins of sandy rufous, imparting a scaled, rather than a streaked, appearance to the head. The progress from the barred-breasted young bird to the thickly pearl-spotted adult is gradually acquired, and apparently, to a great extent, by a change of feather

after the first moult, when different kinds of arrow-shaped black marks and bars are much in evidence beneath.

[The "Patrice" was very common, the birds occurring both on the veldt and on the kopjes, in coveys and in pairs. They feed morning and evening on a small bulb called "Inki root"\*, which they seem to hook out of the sandy soil with their beaks. They thrive well in captivity, and a hen at Deelfontein hatched three eggs out of five. The chicks, moreover, thrived well, but were killed by "dassies" (*Hyrax capensis*). These Francolins do not fly far when put up. Both male and female call, and like to get on a pointed rock to do so. The young birds call when they are about three weeks old.

The nest is a slight hollow in the ground, with a little grass as lining. It is generally placed on the side of a kopje.]

## 2. *COTURNIX CAPENSIS*.

*Coturnix coturnix*, pt., Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 603, 854 (1884).

*Coturnix capensis* Grant, Cat. B. xx. p. 237 (1893).

*Coturnix africana* T. & S.; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 31 (1899).

*Coturnix coturnix africana* Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 506 (1901).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, April 3, 1902.

[The Quail was not a common bird with us, and we only got one specimen about four miles out of Deelfontein in April.]

## 3. *PTEROCLURUS NAMAQUA*.

*Pterocles namaqua* Gm.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 574, 854 (1884).

*Pteroclorus namaqua* Grant, Cat. B. xxii. p. 10 (1893); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 318 (1901); Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 2 (1901).

\* "Inki" is a small bulb, so called by the Kaffir boys. It is very sweet and has grass-like leaves. The majority of South-African animals feed on it.

*a, b.* ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 3-8, 1903.

*c, d.* ♂ ad. & juv.; *e.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 16, 1902.  
(Bill in female slate-coloured; bare skin round eye bluish.  
In young, bare skin round eye tinged with yellow.)

*f, g.* ♂; *h.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 20-24, 1902.

*i, k.* ♂ juv. „ Feb. 23-27, 1902.

*l, m.* ♀ juv. „ March 1, 1902.

*n, o.* ♂ juv. „ April 3, 1902.

*p, q.* ♂ ♀ ad. „ May 15, 1902.

*r.* ♂ ad. „ Oct. 29, 1902.

Two eggs measure: axis 1.45, diam. 1.0 inch.

The male in first plumage shews no sign of the grey-tipped ocellated scapulars and inner secondaries, though these are assumed after the first moult. The young bird is rufescent on the back and mantle, which have blackish cross-bars, in fact the whole of the upper surface is more or less rufous or buff, regularly barred with black, these bars being especially distinct on the upper tail-coverts and tail. The sandy-coloured tips to the inner secondaries are vermiculated with dusky lines, instead of being pure white. The throat and sides of the face are uniform sandy rufous; the fore-neck and chest are sandy brown with dusky spots and cross-bars, which gradually vary in pattern until they result in ovate drop-like markings before the moult, when the colour of the chest becomes uniform. The full plumage of the male seems to be established at the first moult.

The nestling females are not very different from the old females, but are not so dark in tint.

[The "Namaqua Patrice" was found at Deelfontein at all times of year, and even during the breeding-season it was noticed in small coveys of from five to seven individuals. It was a common species, occurring in large flocks of up to a hundred. It evinced a partiality for the sheep-kraals, roosting at night in the rocky veldt, and coming to drink both in the morning and evening. The nest was a slight hollow in the ground, and we never found more than two eggs. In captivity the birds did not thrive well, and seemed

to be constantly moulting, and dropping the feathers of the rump and tail.]

#### 4. *COLUMBA PHÆONOTA.*

*Columba phæonota* Gray ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 559, 854 (1884) ; Salvad. Cat. B. xxi. p. 268 (1893) ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 69 (1899) ; Reichenow, t. c. p. 403 (1901).

*a, b.* ♂ ad. et imm. Deelfontein, Feb. 20, 1902.

*c.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, March 5, 1902. Iris bright yellow.

*d.* ♀ imm. Deelfontein, March 5, 1902. Iris pale yellow.

*e.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Oct. 22, 1902.

Young birds have much larger triangular white spots on the wings than those which are older, these white markings being more confluent and not so well defined. The rufescent feathers verge upon cinnamon, and after the first moult become of a purplish brown or maroon. There is also in the first plumage little or no evidence of the cinnamon colour on the throat and fore-neck, or of the greenish-grey tips to the feathers of the neck.

[This Pigeon was very common, and was resident all the year round. It fed in the morning and evening, visiting the mealie-fields in large flocks of from twenty to fifty individuals. The nest was made of sticks and a little grass, and was generally placed in a "krantz" on the kopje, or sometimes in a rocky slit on the veldt: the eggs were two in number. These birds thrive well in captivity and bred freely.]

#### 5. *STREPTOPELIA CAPICOLA.*

*Turtur capicola* Sundev. ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 567 (1884) ; Salvad. t. c. p. 424 (1893) ; Reichenow, t. c. p. 414 (1901).

*Streptopelia capicola* Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 79 (1899).

*a.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 12, 1902. Irides hazel ; bill black ; legs pale crimson.

*b, c, d.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, April 17, 1902.

[This Turtle-Dove was local, but was found on the

majority of the farms where there were a good number of trees. We did not discover the nest, but it was said to breed near by the Boers, who seemed to be very fond of the birds, and did not like them to be shot.]

6. STIGMATOPELIA SENEGALENSIS.

*Turtur senegalensis* (Linn.) ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 568, 854 (1884) ; Salvad. t. c. p. 448 (1893) ; Reichen. t. c. p. 406 (1901).

*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*, Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 80 (1899).

a. ♂. Deelfontein, March 18, 1902. Bill black ; feet claret-coloured ; iris hazel.

[A male was taken in March. We did not see more than three examples during the time that we were at Deelfontein.]

7. *ENA* CAPENSIS.

*Ena capensis* (Linn.) ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 572, 854 (1884) ; Salvad. t. c. p. 501 (1893) ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 83 (1899) ; Reichenow, t. c. p. 429 (1901) ; Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 2 (1901).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Jan. 12, 1901.

b, c. ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 12-28, 1902.

d. ♂ ; e, f. ♀ juv. Deelfontein, March 22, 1902. Feet greyish brown.

g, h, i. ♂ ; k. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, May 15-22, 1902.

l, m. ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Nov. 5-12, 1902.

The young killed in March are spangled in the usual way with white spots at the end of the feathers, which shew a black sub-terminal bar, and as the birds are then moulting it follows that the first plumage is brown like that of the adults and that the first full plumage is grey above and on the throat and chest ; the cross-band on the back is white, and the metallic wing-spot uniform steel-blue, not purple or puce-colour. This spot varies a good deal, a fact undoubtedly due, as Mr. Grant points out, to fading and change of the metallic lustre. All fully adult birds have the band across the back rufescent or isabelline brown, not whitish. By the end of May the moult has been completed, and the new plumage is very grey.

[This little Dove was common and occurred all the year round. It was very tame, going about in pairs, or in small parties of four to six individuals, which roosted at night in the orchard-trees, but during the daytime were always on the ground. The nest was placed on the rocky side of a slit, and as a rule in a hole; it consisted of a few sticks only. This species did not do well in captivity and became very bare of feathers.]

#### 8. *FULICA CRISTATA.*

*Fulica cristata* Gm.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 621: id. Cat. B. xxiii. p. 215 (1894); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 110; Reichen. Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 296 (1900).

a. ♂ imm. Deelfontein, Feb. 19, 1902.

b. ♀ ad. „ April 17, 1902.

c. ♂ ad. „ Nov. 23, 1902.

[This Coot is found on the majority of the large dams, especially those in which the sides are protected by bushes. The farmers like to see Coots on their dams, and they are consequently very tame, only flying from one side to the other when disturbed. We did not find a nest, but the bird breeds in the district, as we saw some young at Blauw Bank, about four miles south of Deelfontein.]

#### 9. *PODICIPES CAPENSIS.*

*Podiceps capensis* Licht.; Grant, Cat. B. xxvi. p. 513, pls. vii. & viii. (1898); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 113 (1899).

*Podiceps minor* Sharpe, ed. Layard (nec Gm.), p. 787 (1884).

*Colymbus capensis* Reichen. Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 15 (1900).

a. ♀ imm. Deelfontein, Nov. 22, 1902.

This example appears to be in full moult from the brown winter dress to the black of the breeding-season.

[By no means common, for we did not see more than four specimens in the fourteen months we were out. Three were noticed in November, and another was seen at Elands Kuileun, about sixteen miles east of Deelfontein.]



10. STEPHANIBYX CORONATUS.

*Chettusia coronata* (Bodd.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 670 (1884).

*Stephanibyx coronatus* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 178 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 152 (1899); Reichen. Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 181 (1900).

a, b. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 5, 1902. Iris yellow; bill black at tip, dull crimson at base; feet red.

c. ♀ juv. Deelfontein, March 10, 1902. Iris brownish yellow.

d, e. ♂ ♀. „ March 20, 1902.

f. ♂ ad. „ Oct. 31, 1902.

g. ♀ ad. „ Nov. 2, 1902.

All the birds killed in February and March are more or less in moult. The new feathers of the upper parts are dark ashy brown, while by October and the breeding-season the colour has bleached to a drab-brown.

[This species was first noticed in January, and was very common on waste ground near farms. It was generally seen in flocks of from three to seven individuals, more rarely in pairs. When scared it would fly only a few yards before dropping again, but it was a very swift runner. We never found the eggs, but shot a young bird in March. It has a very loud call, from which the farmers name it the "Kewi-Kewi."]

11. OXYECHUS TRICOLLARIS.

*Ægialitis tricollaris* (Vieill.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 662 (1884); id. Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 2 (1901).

*Oxyechus tricollaris* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 247 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 154 (1899).

*Charadrius tricollaris* Reichen. Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 176 (1900).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Jan. 3, 1901.

b. ♂ ad. „ Feb. 10, 1901.

c, d. ♂ ♀ ad. „ Feb. 21-23, 1902.

e. ♂ ad. „ Oct. 29, 1902.

f. Pull. „ Nov. 11, 1902.

Iris yellow, with an orange ring round the eye; base of lower mandible pale yellow; feet greyish yellow.

The characters by which *O. bifrontatus* is said to be distinguishable seem to me of doubtful value, and some of them are of no account. A young bird, which had already nearly completed its moult on February 10th, still retained a trace of sandy margins to some of the wing-feathers and had a distinctly greyish throat, so that the grey throat may be a sign of immaturity, though there is no appearance of grey on the forehead. The connexion of the white eyebrow with the forehead depends mostly on the preparation of the skin, and in the Deelfontein series the two are joined together, so that this character is not specific.

[Very common at all the dams and stagnant pools, being found all the year round. It was always solitary or in pairs, never in flocks, and was very tame, its habits being similar to those of our Ringed Plover. The nest was a hollow scraped in pebbly ground, with a few bits of coarse grass and pieces of stick, and was generally placed within a few feet of the water. Eggs 1-3, measuring: axis 1.2, diam. 0.85 inch.]

#### 12. *ÆGIALITIS PECUARIA.*

*Ægialitis varia* (nec Linn.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 661 (1884).

*Ægialitis pecuaria* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 297 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 155 (1899).

*Charadrius varius* Reichenow (nec Linn.), Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 171 (1900).

*a, b.* ♂. Deelfontein, March 18, 1902.

[This bird was not common with us. Two were seen in March at Erasmus' Dam, about five miles from Deelfontein. Their habits were similar to those of the British Ringed Plover.]

#### 13. *RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA.*

*Recurvirostra avocetta* L.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 673 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxiv. p. 326 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 157 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 206 (1900).

*a, b.* ♂. Deelfontein, Feb. 15, 1902. Iris reddish orange; bill black; feet, toes, and webs pale slate-coloured.

These examples have still a few old feathers in the wings, but most of the quills seem to be moulted.

[In February the Avocets arrived in fair numbers, and were common round all the dams. The Boers, who call the bird "Sprinken Voul," had never seen so many as in 1902. It does not breed in the neighbourhood.]

14. PAVONCELLA PUGNAX.

*Machetes pugnax* (Linn.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 685 (1884).

*Totanus pugnax* (Linn.); Seeb. Distr. Charadr. p. 373 (1888); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 216 (1900).

*Pavoncella pugnax* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 500 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 162 (1899).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 24, 1902. Feet yellowish green.

b. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, March 10, 1902.

The male bird is about to put on his frill, which would have been white.

[The Ruff was very common at Deelfontein from January to March, being found in large flocks round all the dams, and feeding in the wheat-fields. We found water-insects and also wheat in the stomach.]

15. GALLINAGO NIGRIPENNIS.

*Gallinago nigripennis* Bp.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 676 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxiv. p. 631 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 165 (1899); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 236 (1900).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, July 20, 1902.

[We saw Snipes on three occasions, but whether they were all of the present species we cannot say. One was noticed on the dry road about six miles from any water, and the others at Mynfontein dam, ten miles from Deelfontein.]

16. CURSORIUS RUFUS.

*Cursorius rufus* Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 653, 855 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxiv. p. 34 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 170 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 155 (1900).

a, b. ♀. Deelfontein, March 19-22, 1902. Bill almost black; feet enamelled white; iris dark hazel. These specimens

had nearly completed their moult, except for the outermost primaries.

*c.* ♂. Deelfontein, May 7, 1900.

[This species was found from March to May, but was not common. It occurred in twos and threes on bare patches of the veldt, generally along a road. We did not find a nest.]

#### 17. RHINOPTILUS AFRICANUS.

*Cursorius bicinctus* (Temm.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 654, 855 (1884).

*Rhinoptilus bicinctus* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 43 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 170 (1899); id. Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 2 (1901).

*Rhinoptilus africanus* (Temm.); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 159 (1900).

*a.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 9, 1901.

*b, c.* ♂ ad. „ Feb. 16–20, 1902.

*d.* ♀ ad. „ May 9, 1902.

*e.* ♂ ad. „ July 4, 1902.

*f.* ♀ ad. „ Sept. 8, 1902.

*g.* ♂ ad. „ Oct. 28, 1902.

The series shews a graduation from a dark to a light sandy rufous aspect of the upper surface. The darker specimens are those which have newly moulted in February; and at that time of year both the upper and under surface of the body are much intensified in colour, while specimens obtained in November, when the plumage has become worn from exposure, are very much paler.

[This Courser was a fairly common resident throughout the year, being generally seen in pairs. The birds are very swift runners, and when put up only go a few yards before settling again. They become very tame in captivity, especially young birds brought up by hand.]

#### 18. GLAREOLA MELANOPTERA.

*Glareola melanoptera* Nordm.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 650, 855 (1884); Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 57 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 171 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 145 (1900).

*a, b, c.* ♂; *d.* ♀ ad.; *e.* Jr. Deelfontein, Feb. 27-28, 1902.

A very old male has an inclination to a dull rufous collar round the hind-neck, and the breast rich fawn-buff, while the ashy fore-neck and chest are also pervaded with buff, the line encircling the throat being well pronounced. The immature birds have all completed their moult, and are to be recognised by a few sandy-rufous edgings to the feathers of the crown, and the light sandy margins of the chest-feathers. The black collar round the throat is also incomplete.

[Large flocks of these Pratincoles visited us in February, following a small dark brown beetle, of which their crops were full. They only stayed a few days.]

#### 19. *EDICNEMUS CAPENSIS.*

*Edicnemus capensis* Licht.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 645, 855 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxiv. p. 15 (1896); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 172 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 198 (1900).

*a.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 10, 1902.

*b, c, d.* ♀ ad. „ April 3, 23, 27, 1902.

*e.* ♂ ad. „ May 30, 1902.

*f.* ♂ ad. „ Sept. 17, 1902.

A considerable amount of slight variation in the barring occurs in this series, but nothing that seems to shew a change or sequence of plumage.

[The Dikkop, or Thickhead, is fairly common, visiting the dams and manure-heaps at night to feed. The birds are very tame and are good runners. Dozens of them used to come to the rubbish-heaps at Deelfontein every night. The eggs are two, laid in a slight hollow in the ground.]

#### 20. *COMPSOTIS LEUCOPTERA.*

*Otis afroides* Smith; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 642, 855 (1884); Reichenow, t. c. p. 254 (1900).

*Compsotis leucoptera* (Reichenb.); Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiii. p. 294 (1894); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 74 (1899).

*a.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 4, 1901.

*b, c.* ♂ ad. „ April 18, 1902.

[This Bustard was resident all the year in the district, and certainly bred there, though we never managed to find the

nest. It is a very solitary bird, and, when frightened, is unspeakably noisy. It is rather shy, but can be approached on horseback. It is very fond of feeding along the roads, and we found insects and the tops of the karoo bush in the stomach. It did not bear captivity well.]

21. *HETEROTETRIX VIGORSI*.

*Otis scolopacea* Temm. ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 637, 854 (1884).

*Heterotetrax vigorsi* (Smith) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiii. p. 296 (1894) ; id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 174 (1899).

*Otis vigorsi* Reichenow, t. c. p. 248 (1900).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 26, 1902.

b, c. ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 19, 1902. Feet dull chrome-yellow ; bill dark slate-coloured, the base of the lower mandible whitish.

d. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 22, 1902.

e. ♀ ad. „ April 9, 1902. Irides brownish grey.

f. ♂ ad. „ July 6, 1902.

g. ♂ ad. „ Sept. 6, 1902.

In colouring the sexes are alike, but the female has somewhat coarser and more distinct patches of black on the upper surface, and has more distinct black bars across the tail.

By some mistake I have given the axillaries of this species as “white” in the “Key” in the ‘Catalogue of Birds.’ They should have been described as brown with blackish vermiculations, like the flanks. A pair of adult birds measure :—

	Total length.	Culmen.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
♂ ad. ....	c. 21·0	1·7	13·5	6·0	3·2
♀ ad. ....	c. 21·0	1·7	12·5	5·6	3·2

[Like the foregoing species, this Bustard was very fond of frequenting the sides of roads, and was found in batches of five to seven individuals. It was very common and not very noisy, though wild at times, when it had to be approached on horseback. It was resident with us and bred. Though

we did not find the eggs, we caught some newly hatched young, but could not bring them up.]

22. NEOTIS LUDWIGI.

*Otis ludwigi* Rüpp. : Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 636, 854 (1884) ; Reichenow, t. c. p. 246 (1900).

*Neotis ludwigi* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiii. p. 299 (1894) ; id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 174 (1899).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, July 5, 1902.

This is a very old male bird, and has a shade of bluish grey separating the white of the hind-neck from the rufous patch.

[We obtained only one specimen of this Bustard, which was not common and was very wild. We occasionally saw small flocks of five or six individuals.]

23. TRACHELOTIS CÆRULESCENS.

*Otis cærulescens* Vicill. ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 638 (1884) ; Reichenow, t. c. p. 251 (1900).

*Trachelotis cærulescens* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiii. p. 308 (1894) ; id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 175 (1899).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, July 10, 1902.

b. ♂ ad. „ July 13, 1902. Bill dark slate-coloured, paler at the base ; feet yellow ; iris yellow.

c. ♀ imm. Deelfontein, July 13, 1902.

d. ♂ imm. „ Aug. 2, 1902.

The female above mentioned has the ear-coverts pale cinnamon. Both it and the male killed on Aug. 2 are immature, and have the head and the under tail-coverts vermiculated with sandy rufous.

[Common in small flocks of five or six. From its cry of “De Wet,” this bird was named by the troopers “De Wet’s scout.” It was easily approached on horseback, and its food was found to consist of insects and the tops of karoo bushes. It bred in the neighbourhood, though we did not find the eggs. We brought up some young, which became very tame. One of them used to run about the camp and feed out of the men’s hands, but at last was unfortunately trodden on and killed.]

## 24. TETRAPTERYX PARADISEA.

*Anthropoides paradisea* (Licht.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 628 (1884); Reichenow, t. c. p. 263 (1900).

*Tetrapteryx paradisea* Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiii. p. 268 (1894); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 178 (1899).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 19, 1902.

b. ♀ pull. „ April 3, 1902.

One egg, which measures: axis 4.2, diam. 2.55 inches.

The young bird is grey like the adult, but differs in having the crown covered with downy feathers of a pale tawny colour.

[The Stanley Crane was very common on most of the farms, generally occurring in pairs during the breeding-season, but it was rather wild. These birds were fond of frequenting the wheat-fields, where they lived principally on corn and other grain, sometimes as many as a dozen being seen together. They are often brought up tame by the Kaffirs, and kept at their kraals. The flesh is very good eating. The eggs are two in number, and the nest, which is made of sticks, is placed on the top of a bush about twelve feet from the ground, covering its entire summit. The eggs are much sought after by the Kaffirs for food.]

## 25. SCOPUS UMBRETTA.

*Scopus umbretta* Gm.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 725 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxvi. p. 288 (1898); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 193 (1899).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, March 10, 1901.

b, c. ♂ ♀ ad. „ March 5, 1902.

d. ♀ ad. „ April 8, 1902.

The female procured on the 8th of April seems to me to be somewhat immature. It has the plumage of a paler brown, and has nearly completed its moult to the fully adult plumage, in which the brown has a purple gloss. The under tail-coverts and under wing-coverts in the young bird shew traces of dusky cross-bands, which I take to be another sign of immaturity.

[The "Hammer-Kop" was a common resident all the



year round, either solitary or in pairs. It thrived well in captivity and became fairly tame. The nest was a very large structure, and in our neighbourhood was usually placed in the fork of a willow tree near a dam.

26. ARDEA CINEREA.

*Ardea cinerea* Linn.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 708 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxvi. p. 74 (1898); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 194 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 379 (1901).

a. ♂ juv. Deelfontein, Feb. 19, 1901.

b. ♂ ad.; c. ♀ imm. Deelfontein, March 10, 1902.

d. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Aug. 8, 1902.

The male killed in August is in beautiful plumage with the long crest-plumes fully developed.

[The Heron is very common, being found near all the dams; it is, however, rather wild. The nests sometimes number thirty in a tree, and, as suitable sites are not plentiful, we believe that *A. melanocephala* breeds in the same colonies, but this we never could prove satisfactorily.]

27. ARDEA MELANOCEPHALA.

*Ardea melanocephala* Vig. & Childr.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 709 (1884); id. Cat. B. xxvi. p. 70 (1898); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 194 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 380 (1901).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 18, 1902. Iris yellow.

b. ♀ ad. „ March 19, 1902.

c. ♀ ad. „ April 4, 1902.

The two female birds shew a slight tinge of lilac on the sides of the face, lower throat, and fore-neck.

[Not so common as *A. cinerea*, but found on most of the farms where there is any water. The flesh of both species of Herons made excellent bait for wild cats and lynxes, which were attracted by the fishy smell.]

28. CASARCA CANA.

*Casarca cana* (Gm.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 753 (1884); Salvad. Cat. B. xxvii. p. 182 (1895); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 216 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 137 (1900).

a, b. ♂ ♀. Deelfontein, June 10, 1902.

A clutch of eggs, ten in number, measure: axis 2.55-2.8 inches, diam. 1.8-1.95. The colour is creamy-white.

[Very common and occurring all the year round. It is generally found in pairs, but it is not unusual to see half a dozen together on a dam feeding or resting. The nest is in the hole of an ant-bear or porcupine on the veldt. It took us between five and six hours to dig one out. The eggs are from eight to ten in number. This Sheld-duck is much appreciated by the farmers as a delicacy.]

### 29. ANAS SPARSA.

*Anas sparsa* Smith; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 756 (1884); Salvad. Cat. B. xxvii. p. 213 (1895); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 216 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 115 (1900).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, April 20, 1902.

[Fairly common, generally found in pairs, and said by the farmers to breed in the neighbourhood, though we never found a nest. It is not very wild and thrives well in captivity.]

### 30. AETHYIA ERYTHROPHALMA.

*Aythya capensis* (Cuv.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 760 (1884).

*Nyroca brunnea* Eyton; Salvad. Cat. B. xxvii. p. 351 (1895).

*Nyroca erythrophthalma* (Wied); Salvad. Ibis, 1896, p. 101.

*Aythya erythrophthalma* Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 223 (1899).

*Nyroca capensis* Reichenow, t. c. p. 108 (1900).

a, b. ♂. Deelfontein, Sept. 5, 1902.

[This was a very rare bird, and only a single pair was seen. Both individuals were very tame, and when the first was shot, the second came and pitched beside its dead companion.]

### 31. ERISMATURA MACCOA.

*Erismatura maccoa* (Smith); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 762 (1884); Salvad. Cat. B. xxvii. p. 448 (1895); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 227 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 105 (1900).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, May 6, 1902.

[Very rare near Deelfontein. Only two specimens were seen and procured; one of them was given by Colonel Sloggett to the Cape Town Museum. The birds were very tame.]

32. SERPENTARIUS SERPENTARIUS.

*Serpentarius secretarius* (Scop.); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 45 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 8 (1875).

*Serpentarius serpentarius* (Miller); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 241 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 528 (1901).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Sept. 18, 1902. Bill bluish, almost livid; bare skin round eyes and cere orange-chrome; feet pale flesh-coloured; iris silvery grey, with dark markings.

[In 1901 the Secretary-birds were very common, but as the block-houses were built they were driven away, till in 1902 only an occasional individual was to be seen. We took half a dozen nestling Partridges out of the crop in one instance, and there is no doubt that they are very destructive to young hares and birds.]

33. MELIERAX CANORUS.

*Melierax canorus* (Risl.); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 87 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 17 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 247 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 542 (1901).

a. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, April 30, 1902.

b, c. ♂ ad. „ May 21-25, 1902.

d. ♀ ad. „ June 30, 1902.

e. ♀ ad. „ Sept. 28, 1902.

A sign of immaturity in both males and females, even when in full grey dress, is to be seen in the brownish shade which overspreads the grey, and in the broader bars on the under surface. The one really old male in the collection is much more silvery grey in colour, and has the barring of the under surface narrower. These birds have also a very broad black border to the grey scapulars and inner secondaries.

[Very common, found on the kopjes and veldt, often sitting on bushes in the latter, watching for its prey. It bred in the neighbourhood, but we never succeeded in finding the nest.

This hawk was often taken in gin-traps baited with a rat for "meerkats." It is very shy, and can seldom be approached on foot, but may be easily shot from horseback. It has a very loud call and is a bird of remarkably quiet and active habits. It did well in captivity.]

#### 34. *AQUILA RAPAX.*

*Aquila rapax* (Temm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 242 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 35 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 261 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 587 (1901).

a. ♂. Deelfontein, July 13, 1902.

[This Eagle was seen on only two or three occasions, and we were able to shoot but one specimen.]

#### 35. *BUTEO JAKAL.*

*Buteo jakal* (Daud.); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 173 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 26 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 255 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 591 (1901).

a. ♀ imm. Deelfontein, March 1, 1902.

b. ♂ ad. „ July 13, 1902.

c. ♂ ad. „ Aug. 2, 1902.

One egg, which measures: axis 2·2 inches, diam. 1·9.

The moulting of this species is evidently somewhat irregular, as in all Accipitres, for the birds shot in March and July shew traces of immaturity, with more or less of a sub-terminal black bar on the central tail-feathers—especially on the first of them. The tips of the feathers of the under surface are also rufescent, instead of white (*cf.* Sharpe, Cat. B. i. l. c.). Although mature as regards its plumage otherwise, the male killed in July has an isabelline-buff throat streaked with black.

[Very common all the year round, nesting on the kopjes and in the vleys. It makes a large structure, returning year after year and adding a few sticks. A nest with one egg was found on the top of a tall poplar tree.

This Buzzard is supposed to do much harm to the farmer in the way of capturing chickens, and is said also to take kids and lambs. The Boers call it the "Lamb-catcher,"

and kill it on every occasion. It thrives well in captivity, but it is a bird of sluggish habits.]

36. *FALCO BIARMICUS*.

*Falco biarmicus* (Temm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 391 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 58, pl. ii. (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 274 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 624 (1901).

a. ♀ juv. Deelfontein, March 15, 1902. Bill dark slate-coloured, tip and base lighter; feet greenish yellow; iris dark hazel; orbital skin bluish yellow.

b. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, July 26, 1902.

[These birds generally hunt in pairs, and when hovering over an owl make a great noise, especially just after their swoop. They feed chiefly on pigeons, and the young specimen obtained was shot while chasing our tame White-necked Ravens. They breed up in the krantztes of very high kopjes, but the nests that we met with were inaccessible.]

37. *CERCHNEIS RUPICOLA*.

*Cerchneis rupicola* (Daud.); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 429 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 62 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 277 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 640 (1901).

a, b. ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Feb. 25-26, 1902.

c. ♂ juv. „ March 5, 1902.

d. ♂ juv. „ March 15, 1902. Bill light slate-coloured, darker at tip; feet, cere, and orbits bright yellow; iris dark hazel.

e. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, May 28, 1902.

f. ♂ ad. „ June 13, 1902.

g. ♂ ad. „ Oct. 24, 1902.

The changes of plumage in this Kestrel are very well marked in the present series, where there are females which resemble males in plumage, with blue-grey heads (like the male).

It would seem, therefore, that Mr. Sowerby was right in determining a specimen with a blue-grey head to be a female, although it looks like a fully adult male [see my note on the specimen, *Ibis*, 1898, p. 575]. On examining the series in the British Museum, I find further confirmation of the

similitude of the sexes in colour, for a female bird obtained by Mr. T. E. Buckley on Elira Hill is in full chestnut-and-grey plumage, with the black spots on the back and breast reduced in size, but the tail barred with black.

Another female obtained near Newcastle, in Natal, by Colonel E. A. Butler is similar.

Young birds of both sexes are more fawn-coloured and not so maroon as adults, while they have the head like the back, and streaked with black like the hind-neck; the blackish bars on the rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail are broader than in adults, and the spots and streaks on the back and breast are larger and coarser. These spots diminish in size with age and with each successive moult, gradually narrowing from arrow-shaped or bar-shaped spots and streaks, which become more longitudinal and in very old birds are reduced to a minimum, so that the mantle and the breast are almost uniform.

Angolan birds are darker than those from the Cape, and there is also a somewhat smaller race on the Zambesi [wing 8·4], which extends into Nyasa-land, whence there is a specimen in the British Museum [wing 8·8]. The wing in the Deelfontein series measures 9·1 to 9·7 inches, both males and females attaining the latter dimension.

[This Kestrel is a very common resident, nesting in crevices of the krantzies. It is found both on the veldt and on kopjes, feeding chiefly on insects. It became very tame in confinement, and we trained some individuals to hunt.]

### 38. *CERCHNEIS RUPICOLOIDES*.

*Cerchneis rupicoloides* (Smith); Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 432 (1874); id. ed. Layard, p. 63 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 277 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 639 (1901).

*a.* ♂. Deelfontein, May 23, 1902. Bill blue-grey, black at tip; lower mandible greyish yellow, inclining to lemon-yellow; feet lemon-yellow, claws black; cere lemon-yellow; iris silver-grey; orbital skin lemon-yellow.

[Not plentiful, but noticed all the year round, though we did not find the nest. It is very fond of sitting on the tops of the bushes in the veldt, watching for small mammals

and birds, which, with insects, constitute its food. Like the smaller Kestrel, it becomes very tame in confinement, feeding readily from the hand, and we trained one to fly after mice.]

#### 39. ASIO NISUELLA.

*Strix nisuelia* Daud. *Traité*, ii. p. 187 (1800, ex Levaill. i. t. 39).

*Asio capensis* (Smith); Sharpe, *Cat. B.* ii. p. 239 (1875); id. ed. Layard, p. 78 (1875).

*Asio nisuelia*, Reichenow, in Werth. *Mittl. Hochl.* p. 278 (1898); Sharpe, *Hand-l. B.* i. p. 280 (1899); Reichenow, *Vög. Afr.* i. p. 659 (1901).

a, b. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Aug. 10, 1902.

Professor Reichenow thinks that Levaillant's plate of the "Chou cou hou" is meant to represent the Cape Eared Owl, which Smith called *Otus capensis*. Sundevall identified Levaillant's bird as *Bubo maculosus*, and most authors have followed him. The plate is very bad and difficult to identify, but I think that Prof. Reichenow is right in his idea, and that it was intended for the *Asio*. The only other way out of the difficulty is to put the plate aside altogether as unrecognisable, and take the first name which is beyond suspicion.

[Only two specimens were seen by us in the whole fourteen months. These were very tame and were procured in the long grass at the base of the kopjes.]

#### 40. BUBO CAPENSIS.

*Bubo capensis* Smith; Sharpe, *Cat. B.* ii. p. 27 (1875); id. ed. Layard, p. 70 (1875); id. *Hand-l. B.* i. p. 283 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 653 (1901).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, April 14, 1902.

[Only one example was seen, which came and sat on our marquee.]

#### 41. BUBO MACULOSUS.

*Bubo maculosus* (Vicill.); Sharpe, *Cat. B.* ii. p. 30 (1875); id. ed. Layard, p. 73 (1875); id. *Hand-l. B.* i. p. 283 (1899); Reichenow, t. c. p. 654 (1901).

<i>a.</i> ♂ ad.	Deelfontein, Feb. 23, 1902.
<i>b, c.</i> ♂ ♀ ad.	„ March 5, 1902.
<i>d.</i> ♀ ad.	„ March 8, 1902.
<i>e, f.</i> ♂ ♀ ad.	„ March 29, 1902.
<i>g.</i> ♂ ad.	„ April 30, 1902.
<i>h.</i> ♀ ad.	„ May 15, 1902.
<i>i.</i> ♂; <i>k, l.</i> ♀ ad.	„ May 23–25, 1902.
<i>m.</i> ♀ ad.	„ June 29, 1902.
<i>n.</i> ♀ ad.	„ Sept. 17, 1902.

This interesting series shews that in the South-African form, *Bubo maculosus*, the dark phase is predominant, and the rufous phase somewhat exceptional, but the latter occurs in both sexes, and is therefore an evident phase of plumage.

I consider that the true *B. maculosus* extends into Nyasaland and East Africa, and that in Somali-land and Abyssinia it is replaced by a race *B. cinerascens*, which I have misnamed *B. abyssinicus* more than once. The two forms are very closely allied, and are indeed sometimes barely distinguishable.

[This Eagle-Owl was very common with us all the year round, but we never succeeded in finding a nest. It could be seen any evening sitting on the telegraph-poles, and roosting on the kopjes and veldt. Those that we kept alive throve and became very tame.]

#### 42. STRIX FLAMMEA.

*Strix flammea* Linn.; Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 291 (1875); id. ed. Layard, p. 82 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. i. p. 300 (1899).

*Strix capensis* Smith; Reichenow, t. c. p. 678 (1901).

*a.* Ad. Deelfontein, June 27, 1902.

*b.* ♀ ad. „ Nov. 9, 1902. Died in cage.

[Not a common bird, and we did not find a nest. It is met with both on the kopjes and on the veldt. The Boers call this the “Lady” Owl.]

#### 43. MEROPS APIASTER.

*Merops apiaster* Linn.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 96 (1875);



id. Cat. B. xvii. p. 63 (1892); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 74 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 320.

*a, b, c, d.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Nov. 8-30, 1902.

All four specimens are in full plumage.

[This Bee-eater arrived in November and was fairly common. It was generally to be found where there were tall bushes, and again in kloofs in the mountains. It was very fond of resorting to orchards to roost, coming there in small flocks of about a dozen. We did not find it breeding, but the Boers say that the birds lay their eggs in holes in the sluits.]

44. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS.*

*Caprimulgus europæus* Linn.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 83 (1875); Hartert, Cat. B. xvi. p. 526 (1892); id. Tierr., Caprimulgidæ, p. 56 (1897); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 87 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 352 (1902).

*a.* ♀. Deelfontein, March 5, 1902.

[One specimen of the European Nightjar was shot near the dam of a farm.]

45. *CAPRIMULGUS RUFIGENA.*

*Caprimulgus rufigena* Smith; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 85 (1875); Hartert, Cat. B. xvi. p. 532 (1892); id. Tierr., Caprimulgidæ, p. 58 (1897); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 88 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 356.

*a, b.* ♂ pull. Deelfontein, Jan. 7, 1901.

*c, d.* ♂; *e.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 5-28, 1902.

*f.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Nov. 10, 1902.

[Nightjars were never common with us, and were not noticed on the veldt, but only round the farms and near the dams. They arrived in November.]

46. *CYPSELUS CAFFER.*

*Cypselus caffer* (Licht.); Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 92 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 96 (1900).

*Micropus caffer* Hartert, Cat. B. xvi. p. 450 (1892).

*Apus caffer* Hartert, Tierr., Cypselidæ, p. 87 (1897); Reichenow, t. c. p. 380.

*a, b.* ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Oct. 29–31, 1902.

*c.* ♂ ad. „ Nov. 22, 1902.

*d.* ♀ ad. „ March 4, 1902.

[About the end of September these Swifts arrived and were very common, being found in flocks even during the breeding-season. Numbers would fly in the evening in close order to a great height, their whistling call being heard for a long distance. The nests were built of mud and feathers, and were placed, often two or three together, under the krantzies on the kopjes.]

#### 47. *CYPSELUS AFFINIS.*

*Cypselus affinis* J. E. Gray; Sharpe, ed. Layard, p. 94 (1875); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 96 (1900).

*Micropus affinis* Hartert, Cat. B. xvi. p. 453 (1892).

*Apus affinis* Hartert, Tierr., Cypselidæ, p. 87; Reichenow, t. c. p. 382.

*a.* ♂. Deelfontein, March 14, 1902. Shot on a kopje.

[This Swift was in company with *C. caffer*, and the differences were not noticed at the time.]

#### 48. *COLIUS COLIUS.*

*Colius capensis* Gm.; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 552, 853 (1875–84).

*Colius colius* (L.); Sharpe, Cat. B. xvii. p. 343 (1892); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 146 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 207.

*a.* ♂; *b, c.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 10, 1902.

*d, e.* ♂ ♀ juv. Deelfontein, March 19, 1902.

*f.* ♂ ad. Deelfontein, March 25, 1902. Shot on a kopje.

*g.* ♂ juv. Deelfontein, April 8, 1902. Iris hazel.

*h, i.* ♂; *k.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein, Dec. 22, 1902.

The sexes seem to be alike in plumage. The young birds shew the black-and-white pattern of the lower back as do the adults; but as regards the under surface they are light grey on the throat, with scarcely any pink on the fore-neck and chest, while the lower parts from the fore-neck downwards are ochreous buff.

[This “Muisvogel” was very common all the year round,

visiting the orchards after the fruit. We have also seen it on the kopjes in company with *C. erythromelon*. It was always found in small flocks, varying in number from three or four to nine, and was fairly tame; it bred in the neighbourhood, but we could not find the nest. It did not thrive in captivity.]

#### 49. COLIUS ERYTHROMELON.

*Colius erythromelon* (Vicill.): Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 551, 853 (1875-84); id. Cat. B. xvii. p. 344 (1892); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 146 (1900).

*Colius indicus* Lath.; Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 208.

*a, b.* ♂; *c, d, e.* ♀ ad. Deelfontein. March 7-25, 1902.

*f.* ♂ juv. „ April 8, 1902.

*g.* ♂ juv. „ May 19, 1902.

*h, i, k.* ♂ ad. „ Dec. 22, 1902.

An old male had the soft parts coloured as follows:—  
“Iris yellow; bare skin round the eye and lores carmine; base of bill and feet crimson; tip of both mandibles black.”  
A young male had the “iris ‘hazel,’ the bare skin round the eye and lores yellow, with a slight tinge of red; gape yellow; base of bill greenish, the tip bluish slate-coloured; feet dull crimson.” Besides the differences in the colour of the soft parts, the young Colies have some ochreous-brown feathers on the head, and the tawny buff on the forehead is much restricted. The under surface of the body is much paler than in the adults, and there are slight indications of dusky barring on the breast and abdomen. The chief difference in the young birds is, however, the tawny-buff inner web of the outer tail-feathers, this colour being visible both above and below.

[This we called the Mountain Coly, as it kept closely to the kopjes, occasionally visiting the orchards to feed on figs. It was not so common as *C. colius*, with which it would consort, and was fairly tame. No nest was found, but we obtained some young birds.]

## 50. CUCULUS CANORUS.

*Cuculus canorus* Linn. ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 147, 809 (1875-84); Shelley, Cat. B. xix. p. 245 (1891); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 158 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 89.

a. ♀ imm. Deelfontein, Oct. 29, 1902.

This is an interesting specimen, shewing that the young birds commence to moult soon after leaving their northern home. This female, though still retaining traces of the juvenile white nape-patch, has already several freshly moulted grey feathers.

[This, the only specimen seen, was shot about six miles from Deelfontein.]

## 51. TRICHOLEMMA LEUCOMELAS.

*Pogonorrhynchus leucomelas* (Bodd.) ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 173, 811 (1875-84).

*Tricholœma leucomelan* Shelley, Cat. B. xix. p. 31 (1891); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 180 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 134.

a, b. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, May 20-30, 1901.

c, d. ♂ ; e. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 5-10, 1902.

f, g. ♂ ♀ ad. Deelfontein, May 15-21, 1902.

[A common bird, found on all the farms, generally in pairs, and remaining all the year. It does a good deal of harm to the fig-crops. It breeds in a hollow tree, the hole being bored by the parent birds; there is no nest-lining.]

## 52. GEOCOLAPTES OLIVACEUS.

*Geocolaptes olivaceus* (Gm.) ; Sharpe, ed. Layard, pp. 187, 812 (1875-84); Hargitt, Cat. B. xviii. p. 9 (1890); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 200 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 166.

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, March 14, 1902. Iris pale reddish brown; feet dark green.

b. ♂ ; c, d. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, May 21-31, 1902.

e. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, July 26, 1902. Bill almost black; feet slightly green; iris brownish pink.

f. ♂ ad. Deelfontein, Aug. 6, 1902.

g. ♂; h, i. ♀ pull. Deelfontein, Sept. 23, 1902.

The young birds agree with the description given by Mr. Hargitt. They are very much like the adults, but duller red underneath, and have the fore-neck and chest mottled with ashy bars, and the light bands on the tail wider and more irregular.

[This Woodpecker was fairly common in the mountains, resembling our Green Woodpecker in most of its habits. It is very active in its ways, and is rather shy, with a cry like the alarm-note of the "Klip-bok." Two or three eggs were found in a hole made in a "sluit"-wall; there was no lining to the nest, which seemed to have been made by the birds themselves.]

[To be continued.]

## II.—*The Birds of Nakl Island, on the Coast of Syria.*

By J. H. STENHOUSE, M.B., R.N., H.M.S. 'Hotspur.'

ALONG the coast of Palestine and Syria outlying islands are few and far between, and suitable breeding-places for sea-birds are correspondingly scarce. However, at Tripoli in Syria, a line of coral-reefs runs out from the harbour to form the southern border of the bay, and, after being interrupted by a narrow deep-water channel, terminates, five miles from the town, in three small islands. The largest of these is Nakl, the other two are called Sanani and Ramkine, the last having a lighthouse on it. Of these three islands, Nakl (twenty feet high, circular in shape, and about five hundred yards across) and Sanani are composed of coral-rock and sand, and are covered with a fair growth of coarse grasses and *Salsola*, while Ramkine is forty feet high, rocky, and much more bare.

I have visited Nakl Island on two occasions: the first time on July 4th, 1893, and the second on June 20, 1895, both during stays of the Mediterranean Fleet at Tripoli. In the summer months the *imbat* or sea-breeze blows daily